

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending.

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent application. The amendment is submitted to be timely and nothing further is believed to be required in this regard. See, 37 CFR §1.78(a)(5)(ii)(B). The Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned if otherwise however.

The specification has been amended to include the attached Sequence Listing. The attached paper and computer readable copies of the Sequence Listing are the same. No new matter has been added. A separate Statement to this effect is attached. A copy of the Notice to Comply received with the Office Action dated July 2, 2003, is attached. The Examiner's reference to sequences contained in the figures is not understood and clarification is requested in the Examiner's next Action in the event anything further is required. The figures are not believed to contain sequence disclosures.

To the extent not obviated by the above amendments, the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-14, is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested. Consideration of the following comments in this regard is requested.

One of ordinary skill in the art will be well aware of the defined $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 2$ regions recited in the claims. In the event of any doubt, one of ordinary skill in the art would refer to the specification, such as at page 1, lines 3-18, which refer to Kwong et al and Misse et al as a well known definition of these regions. The Examiner has considered these references (which were published in 1998) and yet chosen to criticize the claims based on an earlier reference of Hansen et al, which was published in 1996. The Examiner should interpret the claims in light of

VEAS et al.
Serial No. 09/856,707

the specification, and knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art. So interpreted, the applicants submit that the claims are definite.

Claims 10-12 have been amended to recite methods of use, to advance prosecution, and without prejudice.

The claims are submitted to be definite and withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-14 is requested.

The Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1-14 is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested, in view of the following comments.

The claims are submitted to be supported by an adequate written description. The Examiner will appreciate that the specification is directed to one of ordinary skill in the art and is not required to include information which would be available to or recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. As noted above, the specification refers to Kwong et al and Misse et al to define the described regions. The applicants submit therefore that the mutants of the presently claimed invention are adequately described in the present specification and that one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed.

Withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1-14 is requested.

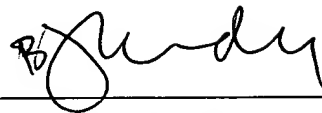
The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required.

VEAS et al.
Serial No. 09/856,707

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. J. Sadoff", written over a horizontal line.

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